<u>Amendments to the Claims:</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims:</u>

1.   (Original) A method in a data preparation program for transferring data in a data processing system, the method comprising:

responsive to receiving user input, identifying data from a relational database and creating a temporary data set;

reading data from a relational database table in the relational database into the temporary data set created in response to the user input;

preparing the data read from the relational database table into the temporary data set to form prepared data for analysis;

creating a database table for the relational database; and

placing the prepared data into the database table, wherein the prepared data is ready for analysis.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

responsive to additional user input identifying data located in a plurality of database tables, reading data from the plurality of database tables into a plurality of data sets;

merging the data from the plurality of data sets into a single data set; [[and]]

preparing the data <u>from the plurality of data sets</u> to form additional prepared data; and

placing the additional prepared data in the single data set into the database table.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the merging step occurs after the step of preparing the data to form additional prepared data.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] <u>2</u>, wherein a data set in the plurality of data sets includes values for a data object and variables defining characteristics of the data object.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the <u>temporary</u> data set is a SAS data set.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [[the]] generation of output flat files is avoided.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the user input is a query.

8.   (Original) A data processing system in a data preparation program for transferring data in a data processing system, the data processing system comprising:

identifying means, responsive to receiving user input, for identifying data from a relational database and creating a temporary data set;

reading means for reading data from a relational database table in the relational database into the temporary data set created in response to the user input;

preparing means for preparing the data read from the relational database table into the temporary data set to form prepared data for analysis;

creating means for creating a database table for the relational database; and

placing means for placing the prepared data into the database table, wherein the prepared data is ready for analysis.

9.   (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 8, wherein the reading means is a first reading means, wherein the preparing means is a first preparing means, and wherein placing means is a first placing means, further comprising:

second reading means, responsive to additional user input identifying data located in a plurality of database tables, for reading data from the plurality of database tables into a plurality of data sets;

merging means for merging the data from the plurality of data sets into a single data set; [[and]]

second preparing means for preparing the data from the plurality of data sets to form additional prepared data; and

second placing means for placing the additional prepared data in the single data set into the database table.

10.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 9, wherein the merging means is initiated after initiating the second preparing means.

11.   (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim [[8]] 9, wherein a data set in the plurality of data sets includes values for a data object and variables defining characteristics of the data object.

12.   (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 8, wherein the temporary data set is a SAS data set.

13. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 8, wherein [[the]] generation of output flat files is avoided.

14. (Original) The data processing system of claim 8, wherein the user input is a query.

15. (Original) A computer program product in a computer readable medium in a data preparation program for transferring data in a data processing system, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions, responsive to receiving user input, for identifying data from a relational database and creating a temporary data set;

second instructions for reading data from a relational database table in the relational database into the temporary data set created in response to the user input;

third instructions for preparing the data read from the relational database table into the temporary data set to form prepared data for analysis;

fourth instructions for creating a database table for the relational database; and

fifth instructions for placing the prepared data into the database table, wherein the prepared data is ready for analysis.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising: sixth instructions responsive to a user input identifying data located in a plurality of database tables, for reading data from the plurality of database tables into a plurality of data sets;

seventh instructions for merging the data from the plurality of data sets into a single data set; [[and]]

eighth instructions for preparing the data from the plurality of data sets to form additional prepared data; and

ninth instructions for placing the additional prepared data in the single data set into the database table.

17. (Original) The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the seventh instructions are executed after the eighth instructions.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim [[15]] 16, wherein a data set in the plurality of data sets includes values for a data object and variables defining characteristics of the data object.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the <u>temporary</u> data set is a SAS data set.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein [[the]] generation of output flat files is avoided.

21. (Original) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the user input is a query.

22. (Original) A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, to identify data from a relational database and create a temporary data set, in response to receiving user input; read data from a relational database table in the relational database into the temporary data set created in response to the user input; prepare the data read from the relational database table into the temporary data set to form prepared data for analysis; create a database table for the relational database; and place the prepared data into the database table, wherein the prepared data is ready for analysis